

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 AID-05 PC-01 EB-07 COME-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

AGR-05 /106 W

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O 271435Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9527

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 8574

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; PARIS PASS TO US DELEGATION AID INDIA
CONSORTIUM

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

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1. VIEWS OF CONGRESS POLITICIANS: WE HAVE TALKED TO FOUR

PROMINENT CONGRESS MP'S SINCE EMERGENCY DECLARED. ALL EXPRESS COMPLETE CONFIDENCE MRS. GANDHI WILL END THE EMERGENCY AND HOLD ELECTIONS (A CONGRESS MP TO WHOM A U.K. HICOM OFFICER SPOKE, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID HE BELIEVED THE PM WOULD NEVER GO BACK TO FREE ELECTIONS). THEY DIFFER ON TIMING, SOME SUGGESTING THAT EMERGENCY WILL LAST NO MORE THAN 2-3 MONTHS, OTHERS SIX MONTHS AS THE MAXIMU. SIMILARLY, SOME THINK THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON SCHEDULE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, OTHERS THAT THEY MAY POSSIBLY BE POSTPONED TILL LATE IN 1976 TO GIVE THE PM AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW REAL PROGRESS IN SOCIAL/ECONOMIC REFORMS. ALL THE MP'S INSIST THE OPPOSITION LEADERS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED WILL BE RELEASED IN TIME, BUT THEY MAY HAVE TO STAY IN JAIL FOR A FEW MONTHS.

2. MRS. GANDHI ASKED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY EXECUTIVE YESTERDAY (ACCORDING TO AN MP WHO WAS AT THE MEETING) TO SUGGEST ALTERNATIVES TO REVITALIZE THE CONGRESS PARTY AT THE GRASS ROOTS AND IN EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING OLD CONRWESS ECONOMIC PROGRAMS AND FORMULATING NEW ONES. SHE ASSURED THE MP'S THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS. ANOTHER MP, HOWEVER, CLAIMS THAT THE GOVT WILL NATIONALIZE THE SUGAR REFINING INDUSTRY AND POSSIBLY ELEMENTS OF THE COTTON AND JUTE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY. HE AGREED THAT THE GOVT WOULD NOT NATIONALIZE ANY FOREIGN-INVOLVED INDUSTRIES SUCH AS PHARMACEUTICALS. THE LATTER MP ALSO THOUGHT MRS. GANDHI WOULD PROBABLY NATIONALIZE SOME CATEGORIES OF URBAN LAND. OTHER SOURCES TELL US THEY HEAR THE GOVT WILL DO SOMETHING TO CONTROL OR REDUCE RURAL INDEBTEDNESS, PERHAPS FOCUSING ON RURAL MONEYLENDERS

3. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY? A GUJARAT MP TELLS US THREE DISTRICTS IN GUJARAT ARE UNDER CURFEW. THE GOI'S PRINCIPAL INFO OFFICER (PIO) TOLD THE PRESS LATE JUNE 26 THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME "HOOLIGANISM" IN AHMEDABAD AND THE POLICE HAD FIRED TEAR GAS. (WE CANNOT CONFIRM RADIO AUSTRALIA REPORT THAT SEVEN WERE KILLED IN POLICE FIRING IN AHMEDABAD.) DEMONSTRATIONS WERE ALSO REPORTED BY HIM

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IN MEHSANA (GUJARAT), KARNAL (HARYANA), BOMBAY AND POONA (MAHARASHTRA), TRIVANDRUM (KERALA) TO PROTEST AGAINST THE EMERGENCY DECREE. AN ATTEMPTED GENERAL STRIKE IN BIHAR WAS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE FIZZLED. WE LEARN FROM AN EMBASSY FSL WITH RELATIVES IN SOUTH INDIA THAT THERE WAS A TOTAL STRIKE IN UDIPI AND MANGALORE IN KARNATAKA LAST NIGHT. THERE WERE REPORTEDLY ALSO DEMONSTRATIONS DISPERSED BY THE POLICE JUNE 26 IN AMRITSAR (PUNJAB)

AND ROHTAK AND KARNAL (HARYANA). AIR REPORTS AN UNSUCCESSFUL GENERAL STRIKE CALL IN BOMBAY JUNE 27. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE BRITISH SOURCES, THERE ARE PRESENTLY CURFEWS IN EFFECT IN AHMEDABAD AND INDORE AND RAIPUR (MP).

4. WE HAVE SEEN THE PIO'S FIGURE OF 676 ARRESTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ISSUED LAST NIGHT (MADHYA PRADESH--450, DELHI--90, PUNJAB--9, BIHAR--24, RAJESTHAN--12, KARNATAKA--4, ANDHRA--2, AND UP--2). WE THINK THESE FIGURES ARE INDICATIVE BUT PROBABLY NOT ACCURATE TODAY, EVEN ASSUMING THEY WERE RELIABLE JUNE 26. THE LARGE FIGURE FOR MADHYA PRADESH IS ALMOST CERTAINLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO LARGE-SCALE POLICE ROUNDUP OF MIDDLE-LEVEL JANA SANGH CADRES IN THE HEAVILY JANA SANGH TOWNS OF WESTERN MP. WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS THAT NUMBERS OF MIDDLE-LEVEL "OPPOSITION" CADRES HAVE GONE "UNDERGROUND," INCLUDING JANA SANGHA, BLD, AND--JUST BEGINNING--DMK CADRES WHO ARE FEARFUL ACTION WILL SOON BE TAKEN AGAINST THEIR RULING TAMILNAD PARTY. THE DMK EXECUTIVE JUNE 27 CONDEMNED THE GOI FOR IMPOSING THE EMERGENCY AND URGED RELEASE OF ALL ARRESTED POLITICIANS AND AN END TO CENSORSHIP AND THE EMERGENCY. AT THE SAME TIME THE DMK CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCED HE WOULD IMPLEMENT ALL CENTRAL DIRECTIVES CONGEN CALCUTTA HAS HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME CP(M) LEADERS ARE GOING UNDERGROUND BUT CANNOT VERIFY THESE. CALCUTTA ITSELF IS STILL QUIET. WE HEAR THAT THE

SOCIALIST MP'S MADHU LAIMAYE AND GEORGE FERNANDES HAVE GONE "UNDERGROUND" AS HAS CONGRESS DISSIDENT MP MOHAN DHARIA. JANA SANGH MP SUBRAMANIAM SWUI HAS BEEN
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ARRESTED IN TAMILAND.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

SAB-01 AID-05 PC-01 EB-07 COME-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

AGR-05 /106 W

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O 271435Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9528

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 8574

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; PARIS PASS TO US DELEGATION AID INDIA
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5. GOI MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICIAL REACTION: ALL-INDIA
RADIO AND THE PRESS WHICH PUBLISHED IN CALCUTTA (NO
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS PUBLISHED JUNE 27 IN NEW DELHI)
DESCRIBE A LONG SERIES OF CONGRATULATORY AND SUPPORTING
MESSAGES AND PETITIONS FROM STATE CHIEF MINISTERS AND
CONGRESS MP'S. DEFMIN DLGJ CAN RAM HAS REMAINED SILENT
AND DECLINED TO TALK TO NEWSMEN OR OTHERS. FONMIN CHAVAN
IS (ACCORDING TO A CONGRESS MP SOURCE) ENERGETICALLY

EXPRESSING HIS SUPPORT FOR MRS. GANDHI TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS HIM. PLANNING COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN P.N. HAKSAR IS REPORTEDLY GOING TO RESIGN (OR HAS ALREADY RESIGNED--DEPENDING ON WHICH SOURCE ONE CITES) AND MAY BE GOING TO MOSCOW AS INDIAN AMBASSADOR. WE HAVE HEARD FROM AN EXCELLENT SOURCE THAT HAKSAR HAS BEEN ON "VACATION" IN SIMLA FOR THE LAST TEN DAYS, BUT WAS AMONG THOSE WHO ADVISED MRS. GANDHI TO RESIGN BEFORE HE LEFT. AS A RESULT HE IS WELL OUT OF FAVOR, AND THOSE OF HIS "GROUP" IN THE CIVIL SERVICE ARE ALSO OUT OF FAVOR. (ACCORDING TO A SOURCE IN THE PM'S HOUSEHOLD ENTOURAGE, THIS WAS THE KEY REASON FOR THE SUDDEN TRANSFER OF HOME SECRETARY MUKERJEE TO CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK.) THE NAMES MOST COMMONLY HEARD AS THE KEY FIGURES BEHIND MRS. GANDHI AT THIS POINT ARE HER SON, SANJAY GANDHI AND HER SECRETARY, DHAWAN. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE PM'S HOUSEHOLD. BOTH ARE NON-IDEOLOGICAL, EXTREMELY AUTHORITARIAN IN THEIR GENERAL APPROACH, AND FOCUSED ONLY ON KEEPING MRS. GANDHI IN POWER.

6. THE PM'S LAWYER IN THE SUPREME COURT ELECTION PETITION APPEAL, TATA DIRECTOR NANI PALIKIWALA, RESIGNED FROM THE CASE LATE ON JUNE 26 AND ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL OF INDIA F.S. NARIMAN RESIGNED HIS POST JLDTSRAW# (THIS LATTER GHBOROYMODJCYGINALLY CAVJPED ON THEI TI BHRE# WAS IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWN FROM USE AT THE INSTANCE OF THE CENSOR.)

7. SECURITY: THE DAO IS SUBMITTING A SEPARATE REPORT ON THE MILITARY SITUATION. WE HEAR FROM ONE SOURCE THAT MRS. GANDHI CALLED THE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS TO HER RESIDENCE (UNHEARD OF PREVIOUSLY) LAST NIGHT. ANOTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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BSF BATTALION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO NEW DELHI.

8. PRESS: ONE HINDI (COMMUNIST) AND ONE URDU NEWSPAPER WERE PUBLISHED IN DELHI TODAY. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS PUBLISHED IN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS WERE HEAVILY CENSORED. WE UNDERSTAND THE JANA SANGH DAILY MOTHERLAND IN DELHI REFUSED TO SUBMIT TO CENSORSHIP AND HAS BEEN SEALED. POWER FOR THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPERS IN DELHI HAS BEEN CUT OFF SINCE MID-DAY JUNE 26 AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST JUNE 29. THE GOI HAS APPOINTED TWO OFFICERS TO CONTROL CENSORSHIP: PRINCIPAL INFO OFFICER A.R. BAJI AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS B.R. BOWRY, THE LATTER ALREADY BEING ATTACHED TO MRS. GANDHI AS A PRESS RELATIONS OFFICER. SAXBE

NOTE BY OC/T: NEW DELHI 8574 (SEC 2 OF 2) #AS RECEIVED IN PARA
6. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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